

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 269802
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /031 R

DRAFTED BY COM/SAD/WALE/LDJ

APPROVED BY EB/OCA/CD:RAU

COM/SAD/RGOOTENBERG

COM/IGT/SMILLER

COM/CAGNE/PHALE

COM/CAGNE/RRUAN

COM/DM/CJBARRETT

NEA/RA/DMORAN (INFO)

-----075815 111407Z /43

P 110335Z NOV 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: BEXP, SY, GR, SA, BA

SUBJECT: PROCESS CONTROLS TRADE MISSION

REF: DAMASCUS 6870

1. USDOC CONTACTED MR. LEEDS OF TAYLOR INSTRUMENTS RE
UNPAID BILL MERIDIEN HOTEL.

2. MR. LEEDS INFORMED USDOC THAT HE AND MR. BAILY ARGUED
VIGOROUSLY WITH CASHIER AND WERE UNABLE TO CONVINCE HIM
THAT THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PAY THEIR BILL. CASHIER
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INSISTED HE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT MESSRS LEEDS
AND BAILY'S MONEY BECAUSE "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MISSION BILLS." THEY TRIED TO EXPLAIN
THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MISSION
DIRECTOR'S ACCOMMODATIONS, BUT WERE UNABLE TO DO SO.
THERE WAS NO ONE FROM EMBASSY TO ASSIST AT THE EARLY

MORNING DEPARTURE TIME AND THEY HAD TO LEAVE TO CATCH A PLANE. THEY WERE AWAITING A CALL FROM COMMERCE OR FOR A BILL DIRECTLY FROM THE HOTEL TO SETTLE THIS MATTER FOR WHICH THEY WERE FULLY AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.

3. LEEDS INFORMS HIS CHECK WILL BE MAILED THIS DATE,

NOVEMBER 7. HE WILL TELEX BAILY IN LONDON TO SEND HIS CHECK TO THE EMBASSY (INSCRIBED FOR PAYMENT TO MERIDIEN HOTEL) SOONEST. BOTH LEEDS AND BAILY DESIRE COPY OF

HOTEL BILL MARKED PAID UPON RECEIPT OF FUNDS BY HOTEL MANAGEMENT.

4. TAYLOR INSTRUMENTS IS SUBSTANTIAL COMPANY WITH GOOD REPUTATION. HAS PARTICIPATED IN OTHER USDOC EVENTS. THESE PEOPLE WERE NOT "SKIPPING OUT" AS ELUDED TO IN TONE OF CABLE. REGRET THAT POST MIGHT NOT HAVE CONSIDERED SOME MISUNDERSTANDING COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT CHECK OUT TIME RATHER THAN JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS AND OVER

REACTING WITHOUT BENEFIT OF OTHER SIDE OF STORY.

5. AS FOR MISSION DIRECTOR'S EARLY DEPARTURE, THIS WAS DONE FOR HIS PERSONAL CONVENIENCE AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH USDOC TRAVEL POLICIES. HE HAD WORKED OUT HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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EARLY DEPARTURE WITHOUT CONSULTATION OR APPROVAL FROM TRADE MISSIONS SECTION. USDOC WAS EQUALLY DISMAYED WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT AND IN FUTURE WILL HESITATE TO SEND IOGA TRADE MISSIONS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A USG EMPLOYEE. VANCE

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Sent Date: 11-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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